

36. *ARTHRAOXON ECHINATUS* (NEES) HOCHST.—A NEW RECORD FROM HAMIRPUR DIST. (U.P.)

During a detailed study of the accumulated Poaceae collection at the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun (BSD), the authors came across a specimen—*M. A. Rau* 18240, from Charkhari, Hamirpur Dist., U.P., which proved to be of interest. The pronouncedly tuberculate lower glume of the sessile spikelet, readily identified it to *Arthraxon echinatus* (Nees) Hochst. The identity was further confirmed with reference to authentic material at the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Pune (BSI).

S. K. Jain, in his account of the genus *Arthraxon* (Journ. Ind. Bot. Soc. 51: 165-183, 1972) has stated that *Arthraxon echinatus* (Nees) Hochst. is endemic to Central and Southern India. S. K. Malhotra & Sirasala

Moorthy have reported this species from Tarora National Park, Chandrapur Dist., Maharashtra—(J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 70(1): 232, 1973). The present report of this species from Charkhari in Hamirpur Dist., U.P. is of interest extending its distribution to Northern India. Increased exploration, collection and careful study may thus show several of our hitherto endemic plants to be wide-spread.

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37. NEW ORCHID RECORDS FROM KERALA STATE

While working on the floristic survey of Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Cardamom Hills of Western Ghats) a few orchids, namely *Oberonia gammiei* King & Pantl., *Gastrochilus dalzellianus* (Sant.) Sant. & Kapadia and *Acampe ochracea* (Lindl.) Hochr. were found which constitute new records since C. E. C. Fischer in Gamble's FLORA OF THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS (1928) or subsequent botanists do not cite these species from Kerala State. All the specimens are deposited in the Madras Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.

*Oberonia gammiei* King & Pantl. in Journ. As. Soc. Bengal 66:578. 1897; Mitra, Fl. Pl.

East India 1:300. 1958; Prain, Bengal Pl. 754. 1963 (rep. ed.).

Epiphyte. Stem short. Leaves 0.7—3.0 cm long, in two opposite rows, equitant, laterally compressed, oblong or linear-lanceolate, fleshy, green in colour. Racemes terminal, 3.8—5.5 cm long, slender. Flowers *c* 1.5 mm across, whorled, pale brown, pedicellate, bracteate. Bracts lanceolate, as long as the pedicel and ovary. Sepals subequal, ovate or oblong-elliptic, gland-dotted. Petals oblong, erose, gland-dotted. Lip manifestly 3-lobed with a concave disc at the base, gland-dotted; midlobe 2-lobulate with a sinus, erose. Column short.

*Distribution*: Bangladesh and W. Bengal.

*Specimen examined*: Idikki District: Sabarimala slopes, 700 m, 18.3.1973, Sharma 43932.

This small orchid was found as epiphyte on *Cyclostemon* sp. in the midst of evergreen forests.

**Gastrochilus dalzellianus** (Sant.) Sant. & Kapadia in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 59: 842. 1962.

*Sarcochilus dalzellianus* Sant. in Kew Bull. 1948: 498. 1948.

*Saccolabium viridiflorum* Lindl. in Journ. Linn. Soc. 3:36. 1858; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 6:63. 1890.

Santapau and Kapadia in their monograph (loc. cit.) pointed out that this species is endemic to Bombay state. The said species is readily distinguishable from the only recorded species of South India, namely *Gastrochilus calceolaris* (Buch.-Ham. ex Sm.) D. Don by its semi-circular, apiculate midlobe of lip with a conical spur.

*Distribution*: Maharashtra.

*Specimens examined*: Idikki District: Sabarimala slopes, 700 m, 18.3.1973, Sharma 43931.

This epiphytic orchid along with *Oberonia gammiei* was found on the same tree of *Cyclostemon*.

**Acampe ochracea** (Lindl.) Hochr. in Bull. New York Bot. Gard. 6:720. 1910; Sant. &

Kapadia in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 60:95. 1963. *Saccolabium ochraceum* Lindl. in Bot. Reg. misc. 2. 1842; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 6:62. 1890; Prain, Bengal Pl. 768. 1963 (rep. ed.); R. S. Rao in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 61:323, 1964.

Available literature shows the distribution of this orchid as Eastern Himalayas, Bangladesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Sri Lanka. The occurrence of this species in Kerala makes its distribution continuous from Himalayas in the north Sri Lanka in the south.

Even though Hooker f. (loc. cit.) mentioned Malabar as one of the localities of occurrence under the species based on the illustration of Jerdon the authenticity was doubtful since the subsequent floras did not include this species.

This orchid can easily be identified from other species of South India by its large spreading panicles and prominent subclavate spur on the lip.

*Distribution*: Meghalaya, Sunderbans, Andhra, Karnataka, Burma and Sri Lanka.

*Specimens examined*: Idikki District: Pachakanam, 950 m, 19.3.1973, Sharma 43941.

This species was found in open destroyed forest, epiphytic on *Bischofia javanica* Bl. near streams.

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### 38. OCCURRENCE OF THREE TAXA IN WEST BENGAL

The plants forming the subject of this note were collected from West Bengal, during a botanical tour by V. Narayanaswami and party 1949 and Dr. S. R. Das in the year 1975. As far as it is known to the authors, the

plants under reference have not been recorded from West Bengal.

**Alchornea tiliacifolia** Muell.-Arg.

*Specimen examined*: Jalpaiguri, Buxa Bhu-